Welcome to Volume 3, Issue 1 of Cheepers! News issued by Jim Beckman with review, critique and photos provided by Cindy Beckman. If you are interested in reading previous newsletters, click here.

As a reminder, the Cheepers! mission is to bird the best birding locations using comfortable lodging and expert local bilingual birding guides while maintaining a lower per-day cost than comparable tours offered by the major birding tour companies.

What’s New!

Biggest Week in American Birding – Part 1

Cheepers! will provide guiding services during the BWIAB festival in addition to having a vendor table at the festival headquarters (Maumee Bay Lodge) and at Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

If you register for BWIAB, your registration packet will contain:

- a card redeemable for a free Cheepers! microfiber lens cleaning cloth. Write your name and email address on the back of the card and give it to a Cheepers! representative to receive your free lens cloth (while supplies last).
- a business card giving you $100 off the cost of any Cheepers! tour if you register by June 30, 2012, and include the card with your trip registration.

The 3rd annual Biggest Week in American Birding (BWIAB) festival will be held from May 4 through May 13, 2012, in northwest Ohio along the shores of Lake Erie. The festival will be based at the Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center which offers a very spacious area for registration, vendors, exhibits, evening socials and keynote presentations, and much much more!

Visit the Black Swamp Bird Observatory website at www.bsbobird.org or the BWIAB website at www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com for more information and registration details.

What’s New!

Biggest Week in American Birding – Part 2

The 3rd annual Biggest Week in American Birding (BWIAB) festival will be held from May 4 through May 13, 2012, in northwest Ohio along the shores of Lake Erie. The festival will be based at the Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center which offers a very spacious area for registration, vendors, exhibits, evening socials and keynote presentations, and much much more!

The festival will offer:

- Bird ID Workshops by Top Experts
- Warblers GALORE & Other Migrants
- Private Property Trips where only The Biggest Week can take birders
- Birding by Canoe Trips
- Guided Bird Walks & Bus Tours
- Guided Lake Erie Islands Trips
- Songbird Banding Demonstrations
- American Woodcock Walks
- Birding by Ear Workshops
- Digiscoping Workshops
- Great local food and music
- And much more

Visit the Black Swamp Bird Observatory website at www.bsbobird.org or the BWIAB website at www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com for more information and registration details.

NEW DESTINATION FOR 2013

We just completed a familiarization trip to the Pico Bonito Lodge in Honduras and came away so impressed with the Lodge and the birding opportunities in the area that we have added Honduras (and Pico Bonito Lodge) to our 2013 schedule.

Cheepers! is offering two 8-day, 7-night trips in 2013, February 2 - 9 and March 9 – 16, at a price of $2250 double occupancy. The daily itinerary has not been finalized but we will search for Quetzals near Lake Yojoa and will bird Pico Bonito Lodge, Pico Bonito National Park and surrounding areas including Cuero Selado Wildlife Refuge, the Aguan Valley and Lancetilla Botanical Gardens. The itinerary should be finalized by the end of April.

Cheepers! is donating to the Biggest Week In American Birding Silent Auction a free 12-day trip in our Cheepers! Panama Canopy Tower and Lodge in April 2013 and a free 8-day trip to Honduras in one of our Cheepers February 2013 or March 2013 trips (see page 8 of this newsletter for more information on these Silent Auction trips).
Cheepers! is accepting registrations for the following escorted tours:

2012
Jul 8-13 BRAZIL Cristalino Jungle Lodge $1495
Jul 13-27 BRAZIL Cerrado, Pantanal & Eastern Forest $4595-$4995*
Sep 4-14 ECUADOR Northern Ecuador & the Amazon Basin $3295
Oct 1-19 AUSTRALIA Eastern Australia - $5485AUD
Oct 19-23 AUSTRALIA Tasmania Extension - $1485AUD
Nov 27-Dec 11 ECUADOR Eastern Ecuador - $3455
Dec 11-15 ECUADOR Amazon Extension - $1245

2013
Feb 2-9 Honduras Quetzals & Pico Bonito Lodge - $2250
Mar 9-16 Honduras Quetzals & Pico Bonito Lodge - $2250
Apr 20-May 1 Panama Canopy Tower & Canopy Lodge – $2795

We are continuing to work our 2013 schedule. South Africa in October is close to being finalized as is Ecuador in late November. We are considering Belize, Costa Rica, a 2nd Panama trip, Thailand, SE Arizona, Maine, and others in 2013. If you are interested in any of these or have another destination in mind for 2013, please let us know.

* Final trip price depends on number of registrations received.

Cheepers! - Scheduled Custom Trips
Cheepers! custom tours are normally led by Jim and/or Cindy, depending on the preferences of the group arranging the tour. When the tour is led by the Beckmans, all of the services provided in escorted tours are available to the group. If the group opts to schedule an unescorted tour, we do all we can to ensure that their needs will be met by carefully planning every facet of the tour and arranging for a highly qualified local guide. The trip coordinator would then assume the duties as tour leader, in which case Cheepers! would not be able to provide a final list of sightings, a DVD of photos, or a trip report at the end of the tour.

Apr 2012 – Panama Canal Zone & Chiriqui Highlands (Filled)
Apr 2012 – Texas (Upper Texas Coast and Hill Country) (Filled)
Sep 2012 – Northern Ecuador & the Amazon Basin (Custom tour but registration is open to anyone)

Late 2013 – Colombia

If you have a group or organization interested in a birding destination, please allow us an opportunity to present a proposal. To develop a proposal, we need the following information:

- Where do you want to go (country or state)?
- Any specific sites?
- Any specific birds you want to see?
- When do you want to go?
- How many days should the trip be?
- What is your expected group size?
- If you are a non-profit organization, would you like this trip to be used as a fund-raiser?
- Do you want Cheepers! representatives to lead this trip?

Email or call for more information.
cheepers@sbcglobal.net
937-862-4505 or 937-974-0802

Itineraries are available for the following destinations:

- Alaska
- Florida
- Argentina
- Guyana
- Arizona (Southeast)
- Honduras
- Belize
- Maine
- Bolivia
- Namibia
- Brazil
- Panama
- California (CA Specialties)
- Peru
- Colombia
- South Africa
- Costa Rica
- Texas (Gulf Coast)
- Ecuador (Northern)
- Texas (High Country)
- Ecuador Photographer’s Tour
- Texas (Rio Grande Valley)
- Ecuador (Southwest)

Visit the Cheepers! website www.cheepersbirding.com for prices, detailed itineraries & registration forms. If you have questions or need more information regarding our trips, please email us at cheepers@sbcglobal.net or call us at 937-862-4505.
One of our Favorite Lodges

Another of our favorite lodges in Ecuador is the Sachatamia Lodge located next to the protected forest of Mindo-Nambillo. This lodge is located about 77 kilometers from Quito on the Quito-La Independencia highway. At an elevation of 1700 meters, this is a marvelous, private, ecological reserve exceeding 300 acres of cloud rainforest with exceptional hummingbird feeders (29 species recorded) and hundreds of bird species. From here, we visit the Rufijio Paz de las Aves (home of Angel Paz and his famous Antpittas and Cock-of-the-Rock lek), an Oilbird roost in a gorge on the farm of Hugo Morales (near Chontal, about 30 kilometers from Nanegalito), and we make one or two trips up Bellavista Road including a stop at Bellavista Lodge to visit their hummingbird feeders.

See page 7 for highlights of our latest visit to Sachatamia Lodge.

Do you need a guest speaker for a local chapter/club meeting?

Depending on our schedules and the proximity of your group to one of the birding festivals we plan to attend or if you are in Ohio or in a state bordering Ohio, we are available as guest speakers for your local group. We have the following presentations available:

- 2009 Harpy Eagle Trip to Panama
- Birding in Costa Rica (covers 3 trips)
- Birding in Ecuador (covers 4 trips)
- Birding in Peru (Macchu Pichu & Manu Road)
- Birding in South Africa

Birding Festival Schedule

Cheepers! is currently scheduled to participate in the following birding festivals:

- May 2012 – Biggest Week in American Birding (Port Clinton, OH)
- Nov 2012 – Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival (Harlingen TX)

If you attend one of these festivals, please look for us at our vendor’s booth or say hello to us on the boardwalk at Magee Marsh.

2012 Space Coast Book Winners

Congratulations to our field guide drawing winners at Space Coast:

- Pat Appino
- Sandy & Carl Greenbaum
- Karen Stone
- Martha Straub
- Audrey Whitlock

Guest Speaker Schedule

In May, Jim Beckman, co-owner of Cheepers!, and Carlos Bethancourt, Head Birding Guide at the Canopy Tower, are giving presentations at BWIAB, Bruckner Nature Center and Columbus Audubon.

- May 7, 11:00AM – Noon at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge - Jim will present “Birding Ecuador”
- May 8, 11:00AM – Noon at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge – Carlos will present “The Natural Splendor of Panama”
- May 14, 7:00PM – 8:30PM at Bruckner Nature Center – Jim will present “Anecdotes from Birding in Jamaica” and Carlos will present “The Natural Splendor of Panama”
- May 15, 7:00PM – 8:30PM at Columbus Audubon – Jim will present “Anecdotes from Birding in Jamaica” and Carlos will present “The Natural Splendor of Panama”

“The Natural Splendor of Panama”

Panamá, scarcely the size of South Carolina but perfectly positioned as a narrow land bridge between North and South America, is blessed with an incredible natural beauty and biodiversity second to none. Over 975 bird species, hundreds of mammals, reptiles & amphibians, and a staggering 10,000 plants species have been recorded here. Join the knowledgeable and entertaining head guide of the Canopy Tower, Carlos Bethancourt, on a photographic journey across Central Panama, where myriad tropical birds, bizarre mammals and unusual reptiles and amphibians are seen in their natural setting! From Toucans to hummingbirds, Mouse Opossums to tongue-wielding Orange Nectar Bats, Carlos will keep you spellbound with his stories of discovery and vivid images. Come experience why Panamá is indeed the country of Natural Splendor!
Highlights of January 2012 Panama Trip

*Cheepers!* visited Panama from January 7 through January 16, 2012. Our counts were 342 species seen, 27 species heard but not seen, and 4 species seen only by the guides. **EXCELLENT COUNT FOR JUST 8 DAYS OF BIRDING.**

Around the Canal Zone, we bired in Gamboa, the Ammo Dump entrance, Ammo Dump Ponds, Pipeline Road, Rainforest Discovery Center, the grounds and marina of the Gamboa Rainforest Resort, Old Gamboa Road, Summit Ponds, Dry Madden Forest in Chagres National Park, the Panama City Mudflats, the Panama East Zone Police Station, the Amador Causeways, and the Panama City Historical Ruins.

In the Chiriqui Highlands, we bired the grounds of the Dos Rios Hotel in Vulcan, Cuestra de Piedra, LaAmistad International Park, the grounds at Cielito Sur B&B, the Santa Clara area, Baru Volcano National Park, and the grounds at Las Orquideas B&B.

We also made a day trip about 2 hours east of Panama City to Bayano Forest and Lake and the San Francisco Reserve near Torti.

Trip highlights included:

- 51 species of Tyrant-Flycatchers
- 25 species of Hummingbirds (including 1 seen by guide only)
- 23 species of Wood-Warblers
- 19 species of Tanagers and Honeycreepers
- 18 species of Typical Antbirds
- 16 species of Kites, Eagles, Hawks, and Osprey
- 14 species of Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers
- 12 species of Herons and Egrets
- 12 species of Wrrens
- 12 species of Seedeaters, Finches and Sparrows
- 11 species of New World Orioles and Blackbirds
- 10 species of Vireos
- 9 species of Woodpeckers
- 7 species of Parrots
- 6 species of Kingfishers
- 6 species of Trogons
- 6 species of Cuckoos and Anis
- 6 species of Thrushes
- 5 species of Puffbirds
- 5 species of Goldfinches and Euphonias

This was our 3rd *Cheepers!* Panama Canal Zone and Chiriqui Highlands trip since January 2010 and as a group, we added 37 new species to our Panama Canal Zone and Chiriqui Highlands trip list bringing total seen for the 3 trips to 475 (almost 50% of the approximately 960 species in Panama). We have seen between 342 and 350 species on each of these 3 trips.

During the last night of the trip, we visited the Miraflores Locks and enjoyed a scrumptious buffet dinner at the Miraflores Locks Restaurant. In addition to our 10-member birding group plus Cindy and me, we were joined at dinner by our birding guide Guido Berguido and his wife Naomi, our good friends from the Canopy Tower, Carlos and Evelyn Bethencourt, and our bus driver. Everyone enjoyed watching the big ships pass through the canal locks. Dinner at the Miraflores Locks Restaurant is a wonderful finale on all of our Panama trips.
Cheepers! News

www.cheepersbirding.com
cheepers@sbcglobal.net
937-862-4505

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Highlights of February 2012 Ecuador Trip

Cheepers! visited Ecuador from February 11 through February 29, 2012. Our species counts were 507 seen, 68 heard but not seen, 1 fly-by (needed better view to count as seen), 2 seen only by the guide, and 18 sets of sub-species.

The trip covered three parts of Ecuador - the Northwest Andes, the Eastern Andes and an Amazon Basin extension to the Napo Wildlife Center. During the Northwest Andes part of the trip, we birded in and around Quito, Yanacocha, Old Nono-Mindo Road, Bellavista Lodge, Sachatamia Lodge, Refugio de las Aves, an Oilbird roosting site, Silanche, and Milpe. During the Eastern Andes part of the trip, we birded in and around Antisana Reserve, Papallacta Lake, Guango Lodge, San Isidro Lodge, Guacamayas Ridge, Loreto Road, Wildsumaco Lodge, and Coca. During the final part of the trip, we birded in and around Napo Wildlife Center, in Yasuni NP, on the Napo River and in Coca.

Trip highlights included:

- 66 species of Thraupidae (Tanagers, Honeycreepers, Bananquit and Plushcap
- 62 species of Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)
- 58 species of Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)
- 20 species of Emberizidae (Emberizine Finches)
- 19 species of Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)
- 18 species of Psittacidae (Parrots including 1 fly-by and 1 guide only)
- 18 species of Furnariidae (Ovenbirds)
- 16 species of Accipitridae (Kites, Eagles, Hawks, and Osprey)
- 16 species of Ramphastidae (Toucans)
- 15 species of Picidae (Woodpeckers and Piculets)
- 13 species of Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)
- 10 species of Cotingidae (Cotingas)
- 10 species of Trogloxytidae (Wrens)
- 10 species of Parulidae (New World Warblers)
- 10 species of Pipridae (Manakins)
- 9 species of Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)
- 9 species of Dendrocolaptidae (Woodcreepers)
- 8 species of Ardeidae (Heron and Egrets)

This was our 4th Northern Ecuador/Amazon Extension trip since February 2010 and as a group, we added 31 new species to our Ecuador list bringing total seen for the 4 trips to 845 (over 50% of the approximately 1640 species in Ecuador). Even more impressive is that we have seen 64% of the available hummingbirds (84 out of a possible 131).

Speaking of hummingbirds, our itinerary includes stops at Yanacocha Reserve, Sachatamia Lodge, Bellavista Lodge, Milpe Reserve, Guango Lodge, San Isidro Lodge, and Wildsumaco Lodge, all of which have excellent hummingbird feeders. Imagine sitting in front of 4 to 8 feeders with 6 to 10 species of hummingbirds and 20 to 40 individuals flitting around.

Our favorite non-hummingbird birding location in Ecuador has to be Antisana Ecological Reserve. This 296,000 acre reserve is home to the largest concentration of Andean Condors remaining in Ecuador. We have been fortunate to see this magnificent species on each of our trips, one in Feb 2010, ten in one binocular view in Nov 2010, 3 in Nov 2011, and 5 separate sightings during this recent trip. Inhabitants of the Andes believed the condor was a messenger to the gods, flying into the upper world to carry prayers to the gods.


Scheduled 2012 Ecuador Trips

Cheepers! is accepting registrations for two additional Ecuador trips scheduled in 2012.

In September, we have a custom 11-day trip and will visit Yanacocha Reserve, Old Nono-Mindo Road, Sachatamia Lodge, the Angel Paz Antpittas Reserve, an Oilbird roost, the Ecuador Monument and Museum, Antisana Reserve, Papallacta Pass, Guango Lodge, and Napo Wildlife Center. Although this is a custom trip in response to a request for a shorter version of our 19-day trip, this trip is open to anyone.

In November, we have our normal 19-day trip where we visit all the locations in the September trip plus we visit Bellavista Lodge, stay overnight at San Isidro Lodge and Wildsumaco Lodge and stay at Napo Wildlife Center for 4 nights versus 3 nights on the September trip.
Spotlight Tour - Australia

Australia is a naturalist's dream come true. Australia has enormous diversity of habitats, including the world’s longest coral reef (the 1260-mile long Great Barrier Reef). Our tour focuses on eastern Australia during ausral migration. From the northeast, where we have a chance for cassowary, bowerbirds and platypus, to the southeast's lyrebirds, fairy wrens, wallabies, albatrosses and penguins, our tour samples a good portion of Australia's scenery, avifauna and other wildlife. Endemism is extraordinary; 5 non-passerine families and 15 passerine families are endemic to Australasia, plus diverse marsupials, pigeons (26 species), parrots (53 species) and seabirds (79 species). A superb and exciting tour with mostly easy birding in comfortable surroundings – truly unforgettable!

**EASTERN AUSTRALIA (October 1 – 19, 2012)**

**Days 1 -2:** Travel from United States to Cairns arriving on the morning of day 3  
**Days 3 – 4:** Birding in and around Cairns including a Great Barrier Reef cruise to Michaelmas Cay  
**Days 5 – 6:** Birding the Daintree River and northern Atherton Tablelands  
**Day 7:** Atherton Tablelands  
**Day 8 – 9:** Wooroonooran National Park and Cairns  
**Days 10 – 11:** Lamington National Park including 2 nights lodging at O'Reilly’s  
**Days 12 – 14:** Stanthorpe, Girraween National Park and transfer to Brisbane for flight to Sydney  
**Day 15:** Pelagic trip out of Wollongong  
**Day 16:** Barren Grounds Nature Reserve  
**Days 17 - 18:** Blue Mountains and Capertee Valley  
**Day 19:** Flight home or continue on Tasmania Extension

**TASMANIA EXTENSION (October 19 – 23, 2012)**

**Day 19:** Arrive Hobart late morning. Bird Mt. Wellington and other nearby spots.  
**Day 20:** Mt. Field National Park and transfer to Bruny Island  
**Days 21 – 22:** Two full days birding on the island  
**Day 23:** Transfer to Hobart, bird Peter Murrell Reserve and flight to Sydney

**TOUR DATES**

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<th></th>
<th>Eastern Australia</th>
<th>Oct 1 – 19, 2012</th>
<th>$5485 AUD per person double occupancy</th>
<th>Tasmania Extension</th>
<th>Oct 19 - 23, 2012</th>
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**Just a few of the expected species include:**

- Albert’s Lyrebird  
- Apostlebird  
- Black-faced Monarch  
- Brolga  
- Diamond Firetail  
- Eastern Bristlebird  
- Fig Parrot  
- Golden Bowerbird  
- Jacky Winter  
- Lesser Sooty Owl  
- Logrunner  
- Marbled Frogmouth  
- Mistletoebird  
- Nankeen Kestrel  
- Noisy Friarbird  
- Noisy Pitta  
- Painted Button-quail  
- Paradise Riflebird  
- Pilotbird  
- Powerful Owl  
- Rufous Owl  
- Sacred Kingfisher  
- Southern Emu-wren  
- Speckled Warbler I  
- Varied Sittella  
- Victoria’s Riflebird  
- White-winged Chough  
- Willie Wagtail

![Gang Gang Cockatoo](image1)  
![Superb Fairy Wren](image2)  
![Laughing Kookaburra](image3)  
![Regent Bowerbird](image4)
ONE OF OUR FAVORITE LODGES – SACHATAMIA LODGE, ECUADOR

Sachatamia is a private, sub-tropical, ecological reserve exceeding 120 hectares of cloud-rain forest adjacent to the protected forest of Mindo-Nambillo. Guests may walk through a natural sub-tropical jungle, passing pristine rivers while enjoying and observing a variety of endemic trees, plant and wild flower species such as orchids, bromeliads, heliconias and anthuriums, among others. Among the main attractions are the hundreds of bird species that inhabit the protected forest along with the agouties, ant-eaters, armadillos, and deer.

Sachatamia Lodge has wonderful hummingbird feeders attracting at least 10 species of hummingbirds at any given time but the highlight of our stay this trip was a street lamp in the parking lot. This lamp attracted a huge number of moths and bugs overnight and by 6:00AM, the birds were enjoying a breakfast buffet. Normally, we bird here for 15 - 30 minutes and then head for Bellavista Research Station Road but one morning the activity was overwhelming and we stayed on the property all morning. Our bird-loving photographers got many great pictures as we easily saw nearly 50 species in the area of the parking lot, hummingbird feeders and overlook.

Here is the morning’s description from our trip report:

We set our alarms for 4:45 so we could be in the dining room at 5:30 for breakfast. Our plan was to depart at 6:00 to go to Bellavista Research Station Road, but I warned Galo that we might be late if the birds were as active in the parking lot as they had been on our last trip in November. A light there attracts insects which in turn attract birds just as it’s getting light. This morning the area around the light was spectacular! Golden-crowned Flycatcher was the first bird on the scene, swooping out to catch insects before it was even daylight. We stood in a line along the edge of the parking lot and tried to keep up with the birds as names were called out: Blue-winged Mountain-Tanager, Montane Woodcreeper, Slate-throated Whitestart, Brown-capped Vireo, Golden Tanager, Black-capped Tanager, Tropical Kingbird, Beryl-spangled Tanager, Dusky Bush-Tanager, Scrub Blackbird, Lemon-rumped Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Azara’s Spinetail, Palm Tanager, Golden-naped Tanager, Tropical Parula, Blackburnian Warbler. Galo, Marcelo, and Jim were busy with their laser pointers and we all helped each other as much as we could. In the end, I think most birds were seen by most birders.

One of the guides called out, "Barbet!" when they heard the familiar "cluck, cluck, cluck" of the approaching birds. The birds perched in the branches close to the feeders before coming down to feast on bananas, giving everyone exceptional views of an exceptional bird. It wasn’t long before the Pale-billed Aracaris did the same, and we commented again and again that we had never seen this bird so close in such good light. Every tiny detail could be seen at this range. From the shelter overlooking the valley below we saw Swallow-winged Kite, Roadside Hawk, and both Turkey and Black Vultures soaring. The feeders there, in addition to the Barbets and Aracaris, hosted Black-winged and Buff-throated Saltators, Lemon-rumped and Blue-gray Tanagers, Thick-billed and Orange-bellied Euphonias, Flame-faced Tanagers (WOW!), and both male and female White-lined Tanagers, which are so different from each other they look like separate species. A Sickle-winged Guan moved through the area below the feeders, but didn’t actually come to the feeder. A White-sided Flowerpiercer was piercing the top of a red flower near the shelter.

Finally, we pulled ourselves away from the parking area and made our way to the hummingbird feeders near the pond. Booted racket-tail, Violet-tailed Sylph, Velvet-Purple Coronet, Green-crowned Brilliant, Fawn-breasted Brilliant, Empress Brilliant, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, Brown Inca, White-necked Jacobin, Brown Violet-ear, Andean Emerald, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and Purple-throated Woodstar were all in abundance.

When we returned to Sachatamia after a visit to Bellavista Lodge, we added Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch and Black-and-white Owl.

For more information about this wonderful location, visit the Sachatamia website at www.sachatamia.com
News From The Ohio Young Birders Club

2012 Summer Birding Camps - If you are interested in a summer adventure, view the list of 2012 Summer Birding Camps. The OYBC offers scholarship opportunities to student members interested in attending a camp.

Castalia area field trip recap - 10 students and about an equal number of loyal adult supporters attended the March 18, 2012 Feathers and Fins field trip to the Castalia area. The observant eyes and ears tallied over 40 species of birds. The group got a behind-the-scenes tour of a state fish hatchery, and they had an incredible experience at "Back To The Wild" Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. A full report will be available soon.

Recap of our visit with Richard Crossley - OYBC Student member and Birdfreak blog contributor, Dakota, created a blog post about our February 28, 2012 visit to the Columbus Audubon where we had an intimate pizza dinner with field guide author Richard Crossley before he presented to a large Columbus Audubon audience. On March 1, Richard posted his thoughts on the OYBC Facebook page about his visit.

For more information about the Ohio Young Birders Club, visit the website often (www.ohiyoungbirders.org), field trips and events are updated frequently.

Visit the Black Swamp Bird Observatory located at the entrance of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.
Call the Black Swamp Bird Observatory Nature Center - 419 898-4070
Email us: info@ohiyoungbirders.org

The Ohio Young Birders Club is a statewide group for nature enthusiasts ages 12 to 18. The club is part of the education program of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, a research and education organization based in Oak Harbor, OH.

This information was obtained from the OYBC website - www.ohiyoungbirders.org

Jim and Cindy have been adult supporters of the OYBC since its inception on 2006.

Cheepers! “BWIAB Silent Auction” Trips

Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge – April 20 to May 1, 2013

The winning bidder will receive one comp space in the Cheepers! Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge trip scheduled for April 20 to May 1, 2013. This comp covers all land package costs while in Panama (lodging, food, transportation, guide services, and entrance fees). This comp does not cover international air fare to Panama City Panama, tips to Canopy staff and guides, laundry, or other personal expenses.

This comp can be used as either single occupancy (shared bath at Canopy Tower and private room with bath at Canopy Lodge) or as double occupancy with another paid guest (double room with private bath at both the Canopy Tower and the Canopy Lodge).

Retail value of this trip is $2575 if used as Single Occupancy or $2795 if used toward double occupancy.

Honduras: Quetzals and Pico Bonito Lodge – February 2013 or March, 2013

The winning bidder will receive one comp space in the Cheepers! “Honduras: Quetzals and Pico Bonito Lodge” trip scheduled for February 2 – 9, 2013 or March 9 – 16, 2013 (winning bidder’s choice). This comp covers all land package costs while in Honduras (lodging, food, transportation, guide services, and entrance fees). This comp does not cover international air fare to San Pedro Sula, tips to lodge/hotel staff, drivers, birding guides, or native guides, laundry, drinks, or other personal expenses.

This comp can be used as either single occupancy (with an additional single occupancy fee) or as double occupancy with another paid guest.

Retail value of this trip is $2250. An additional fee will be required if used as single occupancy.

All proceeds from the BWIAB “Silent Auction” support Black Swamp Bird Observatory bird conservation efforts.

Jim and Cindy have been members of Black Swamp Bird Observatory since 2009.